

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 5, 1985

GEORGE N. GRAY
CHAIRMAN

Shreveport, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

June 5 , 1985

AGENDA

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

June 5, 1985

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members Present:

Dr. Jack Cappel
Mr. Lyle Crain
Dr. Don Hines
Mr. Mark Roberts
Mr. Dale Vinet

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by Chairman George N. Gray, on Wednesday, June 5, 1985 at 10:00 AM at the Hilton Inn-Bossier in Bossier City, Louisiana.

A roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Dr. Hines, seconded by Dr. Cappel and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of May 1, 1985.

Harry Schafer presented the Survey Section Report at Tuesday's meeting. (copy attached)

Ray Montet presented the Enforcement Report for April 1985 at Tuesday's meeting. A copy was given to Mr. Angelle and each board member.

James Taylor, Supervisor, District I, gave a report on the wildlife management areas in this district. There are four areas in District I; Loggy Bayou, Jackson-Bienville, Bodcau and Soda Lake.

Dr. Hines had asked for an update of the License Section at the previous meeting. Mr. Angelle gave this report for Mary Mitchell. The report showed the problems of the Motorboat Section which handles boat registration and the Commercial License Section. Suggestions for solutions were also stated and some of these have already been implemented. Suggestions for the Motorboat Section were new terminals, cooperation from boat dealers, stuffing machine, upgrading classifications and a complete re-design of the computer system. The commercial license suggestions for a solution were have one fee for trawl licenses, set amount to be transferred to Seafood Promotion Marketing Fund, accept only cash, money orders and cashier checks, re-design computer program and purchase two personal computers. (Copy of report attached)

Don Lee, Assistant Chief of the Fish Division presented a Notice of Intent Resolution to continue the closure of netting on Lake Bistineau. In 1977 the Commission adopted a resolution to prohibit the netting in Lake Bistineau. The reasons for this were the low population of commercial fish in the lake that could be taken by nets and the fact that the netting was detrimental to the largemouth bass and to the striped fishery that was being established in the lake. In 1981 the Commission adopted a resolution to continue the closure because the commercial finfish population would still not afford a commercial fishery. It is requested that the Commission continue the closure with the basic reason being that the commercial population is still extremely low and it would endanger the sport fishery in the lake. Motion carries.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, recent fish population samples conducted on Lake Bistineau continue to indicate very low populations of commercially valuable fish which are normally taken in nets, and

WHEREAS, methods exist, including slat traps, trotlines, and set lines, to effectively harvest catfish, the most popular sought after commercial species within the lake, and

WHEREAS, studies evaluating the effects of netting on sportfish in Lake Bistineau showed that netting would be extremely detrimental to the largemouth bass, striped bass and crappie fishery within the lake, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close Lake Bistineau to the use of all netting for a period of three years. This closure is to become effective September 1, 1985 and to extend through August 31, 1988.

Jim Rabb, President of the Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., made his comments at this time. He stated that the framework set up for the turkey season was in agreement with what they wanted.

Hugh Bateman, Chief of the Game Division presented the 1985-86 Hunting Seasons recommendation for approval. He explained them in detail starting with the turkey season. He discussed each area and stressed the importance of maintaining a balance of either-sex and bucks only hunting. A daily permit operation will be conducted for bucks only on the Red River and Three Rivers Wildlife Management Areas to measure the hunter participation and harvest. This will be to find out how the late hunting for bucks only will affect the wildlife management areas. He presented the recommendation in a resolution. Dr. Cappel made a motion to accept for adoption the 1985-86 hunting seasons on resident game birds and animals, seconded by Mark Roberts and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish annual hunting season dates, bag limits and methods of hunting for resident game, and

WHEREAS, this action provides for the protection and conservation of these important natural resources and allows for recreational opportunities including sport hunting, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department have jointly reviewed and considered all available biological information including requests from sportsmen of the state, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates and bag limits affecting sport hunting of resident game in Louisiana are adopted unanimously by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

The 1985-86 Hunting Seasons are included with these minutes.

Johnnie Tarver, Chief of the Fur and Refuge Division submitted to the Commission for consideration recommended fence construction guidelines for adult alligator enclosures. This is to be added to the regulations for the alligator farm program. In the present regulations it states that the alligator farmer shall prevent ingress and egress. These recommendations explain in detail how this should be accomplished. All were in favor of this proposal and the measure passed. These recommendations are effective June 1, 1985.

(The full text of the recommendations
here is made a part of the record)

1. Minimum height of fencing material - 6'.
2. Fencing material must be buried at least 1 foot in the ground. Additionally, bottom of fencing to be securely nailed to treated lumber material of a minimum dimension of 1" x 6" for strength and rigidity.
3. Maximum allowable mesh size - 2" x 4". Heavy duty rust-resistant wire recommended.
4. It is recommended that 90° corners be avoided; as corners tend to encourage climbing and piling-up of alligators.
5. Fence post spacing to be 8' to 10' centers. Post to be heavy duty in order to support fencing, gates, and stress conditions.
6. Gate wire material to be comparable to fencing material (not of a lighter grade). Height of gates must at least equal to fence height. Gate frames must be heavy-duty and anchored to gate post by at least 2 hinge type apparatus and securable with at least 2 latching apparatus on the side opposite hinges.

7. It is recommended that these guidelines apply to farm, exhibition, or zoo enclosures built after 6/1/85. If serious problems arise with escape of alligators from pens established prior to 6/1/85; it is recommended that such deficient facilities be rebuilt to the minimum construction standards hereby described.

The dates of the August meeting were changed to Thursday and Friday, August 1st and 2nd. The dates of the September meeting were changed to Thursday and Friday, September 5th and 6th. The October meeting was set for Thursday and Friday, October 3rd and 4th in Baton Rouge.

Jim Rabb of the Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation spoke to the group again. The Board of Directors would like to encourage additional support in the enforcement area. They feel that a number of turkeys are taken out of season.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
DISTRICT VIII
400 ROYAL ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES

SURVEY SECTION 03 - 43 ACTIVITY REPORT

APRIL 29, 1985 THRU MAY 31, 1985

During this period, field activity consisted of:

- 173 - Surveys that were scheduled.
- 59 - Surveys that were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.
- 12 - No shows.

Surveys that were completed consisted of:

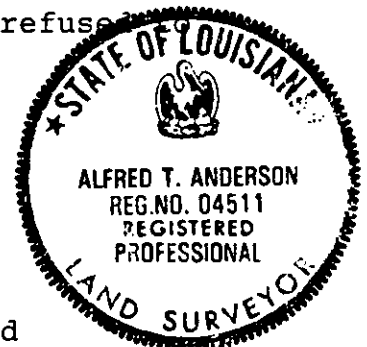
- 58 - Leases that were tied into the monument control system.
- 21 - Applications for new area.
- 2 - 15 year limitation applications.
- 21 - Restake applications.

Total field activity:

<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	
290	475	646	- Surveys scheduled
247	256	348	- Surveys performed
41	188	277	- Surveys unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor
		1	- Survey where fishermen refused survey
7			- Disputes settled
	28	20	- No Shows

Office activity during this period:

\$1,159.71-	- - - - -	Lease rental collected
\$3,213.25-	- - - - -	Survey fees collected
25-	- - - - -	Tonnage licenses issued
7-	- - - - -	Dredging licenses issued
21-	- - - - -	Leases issued





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GOVERNOR

MOTORBOAT SECTION

The Motorboat Section received 3,067 pieces of mail during the week May 20-24. Of this number, 1,976 were renewals leaving 1,091 pieces of regular mail to be processed. Eight hundred thirty two (832) letters had to be returned. This represents 76% of the total regular mail received during this sample week. The majority of the mail had to be returned because the applicants had not sent proof that taxes had been paid on new boats purchased or boats brought in from another state.

In addition to answering incoming mail, 5,049 certificates and decals were mailed. The certificates and decals have to be hand stuffed into the appropriate envelopes as we do not have a machine that will handle this procedure.

During the same period 2,496 applications were batched and sent to data entry to be key punched.

Motorboat personnel assisted 156 walk in customers and answered 837 telephone calls during the sample week.

If this was a sample week from the month immediately preceeding the date renewals were sent out the mail would have been considerably heavier.
(EXAMPLE: 46,000 renewals were sent out the end of March, 33,766 were received and processed during the month of April.)

The procedures that are the most time consuming in the Motorboat Section are:

1. Making inquiries into the motorboat files. This is required when personnel process applications such as: a transfer of ownership, change of address, a renewal wherein information has been changed, walk in customers, telephone calls from the general public and other Wildlife and Fisheries offices (there are only two terminals in this office. Seven regular employees and five students must wait on occasion two to three hours for access to the terminals.)

2. By law (Act 377 of 1978) we cannot register a new boat or a boat brought from another state unless we have proof that the taxes have been paid. The boat dealers, builders and the Department of Revenue are the only ones that can certify that the taxes have been paid.

3. Hand stuffing all of the certificates and decals takes considerable time. Approximately 97,109 decals and 113,266 certificates were mailed during the last fiscal year. We are checking on the feasibility of having the decal and certificate as one.

4. The civil service classifications in this section are some of the lowest in the department. A constant turn over in employees makes it very hard to stabilize the work load.

SOLUTIONS

1. We have ordered 4 new terminals so that each of the employees handling the mail, walk ins and telephone inquiries will have instant access to the file. There will be no waiting for use of a terminal and the employee will not have to leave their work stations, therefore, processing and inquiring time will be reduced to a minimum. We expect delivery within the next two weeks. This will expedite all procedures greatly.

2. Mrs. Susie Barthel, Supervisor of the Motorboat Section, is trying to obtain a master list of all boat dealers in Louisiana. When we contact the builders and dealers and stress how important it is to fill in the tax certifications and if we can get their cooperation, our return mail should be reduced by at least 50%. Legislation should be introduced next year making it mandatory that the dealers and builders fill in the tax certification form.

3. A machine to stuff the decals and certificates is not under state contract, therefore, we will have to wait until after July 1 to make this purchase.

4. Upgrading of the classifications should result in less transfers to higher paying positions.

5. The Computer Center is currently enhancing the motorboat registration system to include fund balancing, N.S.F. report, a history of all transactions relative to a particular boat and identify and flag stolen boats. A complete re-design of the system is planned for the future.

Zip Code



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The commercial license section processes approximately 65,000 commercial licenses per year. Problems that delay this process and suggested solutions are listed below.

1. Approximately 40% of all new applications received have to be returned to the applicant for additional information or because incorrect fees were originally submitted. Blanks are on the front of the applications for individuals to write in the number of nets, length of nets, vessel name, vessel length and vessel numbers. We cannot determine the amount of money due unless these blanks are completed. Personnel try to reach applicants by phone and if unsuccessful, a form letter is completed, envelope addressed and the application is returned. This is a timely process not only in returning the applications but also in that so many applications are handled twice.
2. In order to fulfill legal requirements for classification of monies received from sale of commercial licenses it is necessary to classify each check to three different sources. (Conservation Fund, Seafood Promotion Marketing Fund and Postage Receipts). This would not be so complicated if you could take the total number of licenses sold and put \$5.00 for each one into the S.P.M.F. Each activity must pay \$5.00 to the S.P.M.F. so that if you licensed 2 trawls or 2 gill nets on one license you would owe \$10.00 to the S.P.M.F. This means that you have to look at each application to determine the amount due the S.P.M.F.
3. Wildlife & Fisheries receives a large amount of N.S.F. checks each year for commercial licenses. To eliminate the possibility of individuals using a renewal receipt to operate with when their check is N.S.F. all licenses are held until the checks have cleared the bank so that licenses for N.S.F. checks can be pulled and held for payment. This takes approximately 10 days from the date checks are deposited.

4. Individuals can apply year round for approximately 58,000 licenses. Because shrimpers purchase 39,000 of these licenses it causes a large number of applications to be received January 1 and just prior to times shrimp season opening. Renewals are mailed in December for these 58,000 licenses. Approximately 1/3 of the shrimpers apply in January along with 3/4 of the other 19,000 commercial fisherman. This causes a delay in mailing the licenses because there are only 3 employees in the commercial license section. The remaining 26,000 shrimpers apply just prior to the opening of the spring shrimp season. Immediately upon application in the spring the shrimpers start calling the license section and expect their license within two weeks. Unfortunately with the receipt of so many licenses at one time the turn around time is 4-6 weeks.

In addition to processing commercial licenses personnel in this section assist numerous walk in customers daily and answer an average of 500 telephone calls per week.



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Suggestions for solutions to these problems are listed below.

1. Have one fee for each license sold regardless of length of vessel or size of trawls or nets. This would simplify the applications so that applicants could determine correct fees due.
2. Change the law to allow \$5.00 for each license sold to go to the S.P.M.F. so that at the end of each month or quarter the money could easily be moved to this fund without having to prepare daily classification forms.
3. Accept only cash, money orders and cashier checks as Department of Public Safety does to eliminate delay from N.S.F. checks and work involved in reductions of revenue from N.S.F. checks.
4. Re-design computer program to perform classification tasks, numbering of applications and other duties that are performed manually. This would speed processing time from 4 to 6 weeks to 3 to 4 weeks.
5. The purchase of two personal computers will also increase processing time in that it will allow personnel to inquire into the commercial license file for information from their desk instead of standing in line waiting to access the one terminal in this area. After the commercial license system has been re-designed and our personnel have the capability of correcting or updating the computer runs the turn around time should be reduced to 10-days - 2 weeks.